

## The Times-Dispatch

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TUESDAY, JULY 2, 1912

## MUST REPRESENT THE VIRGINIA PEOPLE

Messrs. Martin, Swanson and Flood and their immediate following in the Virginia delegation in the Democratic convention at Baltimore owe it to the people of Virginia to cease their feuds and stubborn and pitiful support of Mr. Underwood.

Because these gentlemen prefer Mr. Underwood to no extent for their deliberate nullification of the desire of the great majority of the people of Virginia. Because these gentlemen sit in Congress with Mr. Underwood offers no justification for their continuing a course which can only end in the disruption of the Democratic party or the nomination of so weak a candidate as to invite, if not to cause, crushing defeat. There is a time when the exercise of personal judgment descends to the level of mere stubborn stupidity. That is where a majority of the Virginia delegation stand to-day. They owe it to Virginia, they owe it to themselves, they owe it to the Democratic party, to support Woodrow Wilson.

Nothing but the continuance of the convention system has made it possible for Ryan to have a seat in the delegation and for Mr. Underwood to have any delegates at all at Baltimore from Virginia. Messrs. Martin, Swanson and Flood have not seen fit to help the cause of presidential primaries in Virginia, but the action of Messrs. Martin, Swanson and Flood at Baltimore will open the eyes of the people. All that these gentlemen can do to show their repentance, if not their common sense, is to vote for Woodrow Wilson, and vote for him at once. They represent Virginia. They do not stand at Baltimore as feudal lords thinking their own minds without regard to the common people.

The day of class privilege for a few political leaders has come, and Messrs. Martin, Swanson and Flood would do well to bear that in mind. What Virginia wants is representation, and Virginia will have it.

## CONCLUSIVE GOOD ROADS FACTS.

The good roads question cannot be too frequently discussed, or be too strongly and persistently impressed upon the public mind, especially the mind of the agricultural classes. It can never become hackneyed, because it is ever and increasingly alive. Old facts bearing on it can never become stale or unimportant, new facts touching it are interesting and important not only in themselves, but because they impart additional vitality and freshness to the old ones. The two groups are cumulative evidence of the necessity for good roads, the one accentuating the other in demonstrating that in the good roads issue the country is confronted with one of the greatest, if not the greatest, of our economic problems. So far as the farmer is concerned, it is the greatest, and by the token that agriculture is, at the last, the foundation of all prosperity, this doctrine would seem logically to hold true as to all other elements and interests.

The facts and the figures—old and new—taken singly or comparatively, are so plain as to be within the grasp of the simplest comprehension. He only does not comprehend who is determined not to. The argument is a direct, simple and conclusive one to the purpose. As a basis of comparison, let us start with a repetition of the fact, as often presented in connection with the subject, that the average cost of hauling one ton a mile in European countries is 10 cents. Reports of the Interstate Commerce Commission show that annually our railroads handle over 1,000,000,000 tons of freight, every pound of which is hauled over roads to and from the depots. It is estimated by government statisticians that of this vast freightage 20,000,000 pounds are farm products, hauled an average distance of nine miles, at an average cost of 22 cents per ton per mile, or a total cost of \$3,960,000. This cost is largely for the reason that of the approximately 2,500,000 miles of public roads in the country less than 2 per cent can be relied on as durable or dependable, even for a season's season.

It requires but an elementary mathematical calculation to render it as plain as a pike staff that if farm products could be hauled at the low price foreign farmers can haul theirs, the total cost of the process for 1911 for this item alone would be but \$1,200,000 annually, thus making a saving of \$2,760,000 annually.

But that is not all. Whereas to do their hauling now our farmers require \$5,000,000 draft horses and mules standing them over \$2,000,000,000 with first-class roads they would need only half as many, thereby saving \$1,000,000,000, to say nothing of further savings that would come with auto wagons and trucks as substitutes for teams. Again, our farmers pay \$60,000,000 for wagon per annum chiefly on account

of bad roads. Another simple calculation, which is made by government experts and which any twelve-year-old school boy can follow, is that the amount bad roads cost the farmers would, in a few years, virtually pay for good roads throughout the land. A further point worthy of the most thoughtful consideration is that under present conditions, practically the crops, taking the country at large, are moved to the railroad in about six days—the period during which the average road is reasonably passable. Hence we have our congestion at stations, delays in transportation, and glut of the markets. Hence, moreover, the farmer cannot reckon on selling at the highest prices and under the law of supply and demand.

Good roads could but, besides, to farm storage and gradual distribution, which would be immensely to the advantage of the producer, and equally to the advantage of the ultimate consumer, in that the latter would be enabled to buy at the lowest prices of the stored storage system, which, while a recognized necessity of the area within limits, serves upon goods to control production, restrict distribution, and thus raise the cost of living. The sum of it all, therefore, is that farmers could not make a better investment than in turning themselves to the attainment of what they are able to bear during the next few years in order to secure good roads, and that the people of the cities could not do better than to make a better investment than in co-operating financially and in every other way with them. The solution of the problem is close, is vital to every interest, of both from the economic viewpoint, to say nothing of its relation to social and educational development, as illustrated in affording facilities for bringing rural communities nearer together and drawing these into closer contact with the towns and cities.

## THE CALL OF THE INDEPENDENTS.

Even he who has not tarried long at Tidball knows that no Democratic nominee for the presidency can win without the great independent vote of the country. That vote holds the balance of power in New York, and in other States it shifts triumph across its twilight zone to one party or the other. Unless the Democratic nominee at Baltimore is a man who can appeal to the independent vote, the party is doomed to failure.

Without exception the great independent now, apex of the country, reflecting the sentiment of those who are tied to neither party and who vote as they like, favor Woodrow Wilson for the presidency of the United States. They realize that he is or the mold that is attractive to the independent voters, for he is a political philosopher, a profound political thinker, a political constructive genius, one who is bound to the wheels of no machine, but is free and unfettered.

Let us hear the testimony of the Springfield Republican, perhaps the most influential independent newspaper in the country. It stood with Cleveland. It speaks with more authority when it speaks for the independent vote than any other newspaper. Its editor and proprietor Sunday sent the following message to the Baltimore Sun:

"We urge our Democratic friends to nominate Wilson, whom independents and progressives can support with some measure of enthusiasm."

Then there is the New York Times, a powerful independent organ, strongly inclined, as a rule, to the conservative side. It apparently preferred Harmon or Underwood when the balloting at Baltimore began, but it now declares that "the strongest name before the conventions is that of Woodrow Wilson." It continues:

"When the delegates at Baltimore convene on Monday they will put an end to the feuds of Van Dine and do their duty like men by nominating Woodrow Wilson for the presidency. If they have a sense of the true interest of their party and of the country, they will do this. The convention they should reach the conclusion that he should and must be nominated. His strength in the convention but reveals his strength before the country. There is no possible candidate of the Democratic whom a Republican would not regard as a man who would so unite the party and inspire it with the confidence of triumph."

In the fact of such evidence of the desire for Wilson on the part of the independent vote of the United States, how can the Democratic convention longer blind itself to its duty? It should name Woodrow Wilson, and name him at once.

## COST OF ELECTRICITY.

The good logic of nature offers the fundamental argument against any action by the Board of Aldermen that will burden upon the city an increased cost of electric power, through partial expropriation. The present maximum rate for electric power in Richmond is 10 cents per kilowatt hour. There is a maximum monthly rate of \$1.00 for service at 100 kilowatt hours. The average rate for service at 100 kilowatt hours is only about 5-1/2 cents. This means that the rate consumers pay is reduced by a per cent discount that increases as his consumption increases. This reduction is possible on account of the saving to the producer in furnishing large quantities of power in a more or less centralized form. The initial cost of installation is less in proportion, and there are smaller transmission losses, and losses of various kinds. It is from this central consumption that the profit to the producer comes.

Now, for maximum rate and the average over the entire territory is dependent upon the profit that can be made from this central consumption. The whole system of charges is kept in a kind of equilibrium whereby the apparent loss from small consumers is balanced by the margin made on the

big consumer. Naturally this is a delicate and easily disturbed condition. But as maintained at present at a fair rate, it is manifestly an advantage to the small consumer directly, and to the large one indirectly in so far as his business and prosperity is connected with all of Richmond's prosperity.

If, however, as is possible under the franchise at present sought from the city, competition in rates is begun in the central locality, it will mean that the rate will have to be met by the present company. From the facts above, it is clear that this cut from rates of general equilibrium will result in one of three things. The residence and small consumer rate will be raised or the service will be depreciated and fall of further extension, or the old company will be forced to buy out its rival to keep alive. If the first two results are produced the city is the victim. The people as a whole pay, and even those large consumers who are temporarily benefited by reduced rates, will suffer in the end by a general crippling of electric service in the whole community.

If the third result follows with the inevitability shown in other towns, the people will also pay. The cost of actually producing a kilowatt hour of current is probably around 1 cent. The rest of the charge is an investment, overhead charges, depreciation, etc. The price paid for the useless plant and equipment of the competing company will be added to this amount, and the rate for every consumer in the city is increased to pay for this burden of investment. These are not theories, but facts. Can the Aldermen afford to disregard them? Who will protect the interests of the people?

## WHAT A TAX COMMISSION DID FOR RHODE ISLAND.

One hundred and thirty-five million six hundred and forty-three thousand two hundred and three dollars of untaxed property has been discovered by the State Tax Commission of Rhode Island, which was appointed last February. The people of that State determined to reach the untaxed wealth in its orders, and they have. The added revenue brought into the State Treasury by the work of the Tax Commission will be \$300,000. The corporation taxes and the taxes upon leased oyster grounds will amount to more than \$200,000. The taxpayers who have shirked their duty to the State will be brought to time and the State finances will be greatly increased by the accretion created by the earnest endeavors of the Tax Commission.

That is what the smallest State in the United States has done. It possesses nothing like the resources of Virginia, nothing like Virginia's possible fields of taxation, nothing like the inadequately taxed counties of this Commonwealth. The experience of Rhode Island is an illuminating evidence of the blind and stupid folly which inspired our General Assembly to abolish our State Tax Commission, which made fair to do far more for us than that of the little Northern State could do for her. But the legislators of Rhode Island are not fooled by the clapping of demagogues, nor misled by narrow county prejudice and unwillingness to stand for a square deal for all.

## TRULY VERSATILE.

It is strange that the fretted campaign managers who have been seeking to discover some way of starting a demonstration that will start a landslide should have overlooked a demonstrator who demonstrates all by himself to the extent of a regiment at least. We refer, of course, to the Royal High School Producer of the moving picture show. He used to be a drummer, but now his connection with his ancient glory seems to be confined to playing five or six drums by winking a string with his ears. What he actually is requires real words. He is a tumult, a clamor, a vortex of sound, an apothecary of clangor and bango, a pandemonium with a tired snail. He is a manager, a garage, a three-alarm fire, a riot, a train wreck, or the lap of softly snoring wavelets on a moonlit strand. He can gallop like a horse, or crow like a rooster, bellow like a cow, or scream like the heroine who has discovered that somebody has stolen her glass eye. In Rhythmic pursuit of truth we should call this being "truly versatile."

About three of these handy and forty gentlemen could go up to Baltimore and go through about three miles of assorted and terrifying sound and nominate Dr. Anna Howard Shaw on the next ballot. They could make a landslide out of a mud-pie, for don't they make landfalls every time there is a noise in the Alps? A tidal wave would be easy, and so wet that the delegates would have to get out of the hall on a hastily constructed prohibition plank. They would bring the life and blow the drum and twang the lute and rattle twelve tambourines and a triple set of bones, vibrate the triangle, squeak like he Ark three weeks out let steam and burn red fire, and still have plenty of breath left to cheer for the popular hero whose picture hangs from their noses. There is only one other office to which these multi-versatile geniuses could be better suited than that of being lipso facts demonstrators.

One might be a good thing to take home to use when the baby is seized with an imaginative outbreak that requires something by a poetical reproduction of all the known sounds in the universe. When the baby said, "Do it again!" this institution could not only do it again, he could do something else!

Most of the motions to adjourn in the Baltimore convention are carried by the unanimous "ayes" of the three newspaper folks.

Oh! Shaves for President? Heaven forbid!

## On the Spur of the Moment

By Roy K. Moulton

Agent feller one bright day Sellin' books, passed through this way:  
 "Twos in eighteen sixty-one. When the war had just begun. 'Twas a fancy bound in black. With gilt letters on the back. 'Sciopeddy, that's the name. All the books looked just the same. Full of knowledge as could be. Indeed clear from A to Z. 'Twas no use of learnin' in. For he surely had the floor. Couldn't show him to the door. Toller down, that was the plan. For the balance when you can. By instalments, very small. Didn't seem no trick at all. Old Mr. Perkins bought a set And he's paying for it yet."

According to Uncle Abner.  
 The last time Rev. Hanks was down to the city he looked so religious the police party nigh ran him in on suspicion for a con man.

There are a whole lot of ways to make people think you're rich besides wearin' patent leather shoes on week days.  
 Last Sunday the pastor asked every member of the church to bring two sticks of wood when they came to the Thursday evening prayer meeting, so the whole woodpile was getting low. Every feller took two sticks of wood from his neighbor's yard, so it was even up pretty well after all.

## Some Household Intelligencies.

"Oh, yes, of course I have got 10 cents to spare, but I want you to understand that my business was never so poor as it is this year, and it is only a short distance from us to the county farm."  
 "Who in t'other has been using my razor strap to lick the kids with, anyhow?"  
 "Boiled potatoes every day. Some women have absolutely no originality."

"Say, George, any old time you don't like my way I wear my hair you can ante up for a new switch. See?"  
 "Oh, you ain't got much of a holler coming. I know some women who don't go home to get supper at all."

"You're the snuffy little husband, all right, the little ray of sunshine. The idea of grouching around for a week just because mother says she is going to come and visit as some time next summer. You make no tired?"  
 "Gee, if you was married to some women you wouldn't kick about one little hair in the sweatdash. I'll tell you that."

## Tips on the Races.

As to the general dope for to-day, I am prepared to hand out the following information after looking the tail end over very carefully and interviewing the owners.

Suspender ought to be great in the stretch. Get wise to this.  
 Money ought to be a good runner-up if the weather remains warm.  
 American Eagle always does well on the quarter, also on the half-dollar.  
 Perfumery is apt to go up in the air at any moment.

Mustard plaster shows evidence of sticking to the skin.  
 General Humility ought to do pretty well in a heat.  
 There is every indication that Furniture Polish will be scratched and Babbler Brook set back for running. Babbler is liable to break when least expected to do so.

If you want a safe bet put it on House and Lot.  
 I will repeat my tip of last season. It was so successful, to the effect that Hard Boiled Egg cannot be beaten.

Bookmaker is a winner in nearly every race.  
 If you want to get a run for your money try to catch the first car after the races. A good one is investment for your week's salary in hamburger sandwiches and ice cream cones.

## Voice of the People

MURPHY.  
 To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—In the Religious Herald of June 27, 1912, there appears an editorial entitled "The Political" in which the editor discusses in a calm and comprehensive way some of the men and conditions which have recently, and are now, greatly interesting the general public.

There was one paragraph which so clearly states the fact of such great importance at this time that I think you will do a public service by reproducing it. It is as follows:

"As between Mr. Charles Murphy and the things for which he stands, which he stands for, and the things for which he stands, there is not a pin to choose. They are barred with the same stick, they have the same political motives, they do business after the same fashion. Nobody who understands the situation doubts for a moment that if it became necessary, they could have read such an editorial this morning. It is a real and genuine pleasure to hear this kind of doctrine preached through the columns of our daily press, and The Times-Dispatch is to be commended, and its editorial writer congratulated for such a fine sample of clear logic, fearlessly stated opinion and good newspaper composition."

But to show that your readers are not blinded by your editorial virtues, to your editorial faults, please allow me a little friendly criticism as well. Why do you commend Congressman Hal D. Flood in your editorial of June 28, 1912, and for all that we have done and are doing for the dear city we only ask that our narrow street (about thirty-five feet) be widened to a minimum of 100 feet, and that the street car company pay about one-third of this, and yet I understand that our dear city cannot afford to pay the other two-thirds with smooth paving, but are going to give us the granite spall on a strictly residential street, which will be a loud monument to our representatives in the City Council and add to our stock of unnecessary noise. C. E. P.

## Abe Martin

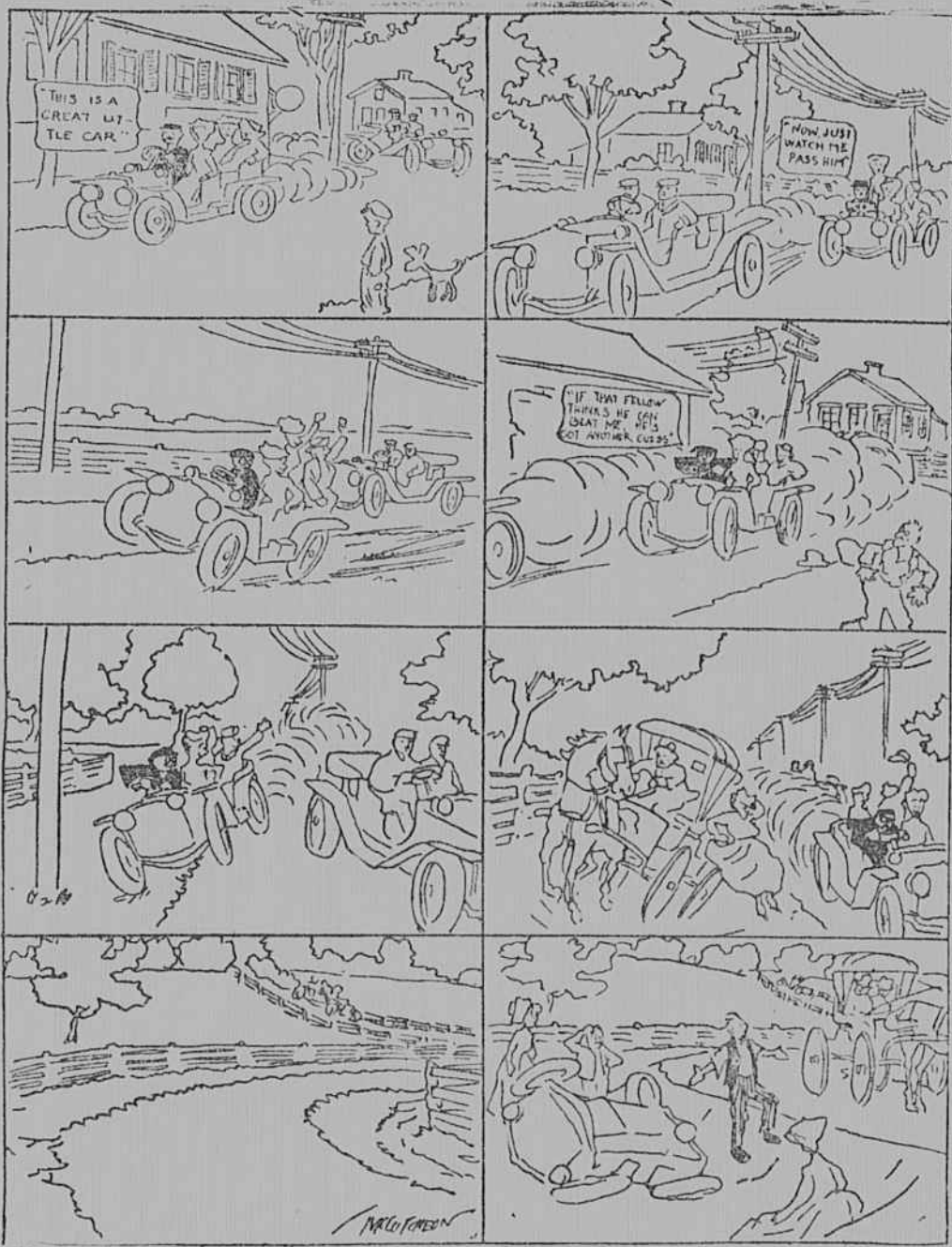


Notin' makes a feller feel a sinderpendent as havin' two or three dollars over him married. Em Moch an' her man have been married two years 'n'more. Don't it beat all how some folks see 'n' list be made for each other?

## HIS FIRST CAR.

By John T. McCutcheon.

[Copyright, 1912, By John T. McCutcheon.]



which he is offering to the dealer from whom he can get the best price.

May we not hope that there is only one Charles Murphy in the Baltimore convention at this time?

W. SYDNOR.

Ashland.

## Pave Pine Street.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—We have often said that little song, "I want to be an angel and with the angels stand a crown," etc. But I have concluded that all such is but a waste of human breath, and have concluded that all I desire is to live on Pine Street, where we have paid taxes for forty years and kept quiet, hoping that justice would come our way some of these times.

We have paid for every brick in our sidewalk, and if our dear city has done anything for us it is in the way of investments that pays the city from 25 per cent on the so-called improvements in our section and we have been taken in forty years.

We have the only park to park boulevard, Monroe to drive in, and we have set out trees and hared them for forty years and tried to make Pike Street as beautiful and attractive as possible, and for all that we have done and are doing for the dear city we only ask that our narrow street (about thirty-five feet) be widened to a minimum of 100 feet, and that the street car company pay about one-third of this, and yet I understand that our dear city cannot afford to pay the other two-thirds with smooth paving, but are going to give us the granite spall on a strictly residential street, which will be a loud monument to our representatives in the City Council and add to our stock of unnecessary noise. C. E. P.

## Commend Bryan.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—Please reprint the following:

Norfolk, Va. June 25, 1912.  
 To William J. Bryan.  
 Care of Hotel Belvedere, Baltimore, Md.

If Lawson's charges are true you were right in demanding the withdrawal from the national convention of delegates representing interests which had participated in that disreputable plot. The responsibility for their offence now rests where it belongs, on Virginia and New York, and not on the National Democratic Convention. When the people realize what damnable influences are allowed to be at work in Baltimore to defeat their party with prejudice, any interest, the introduction of your resolution will be regarded as an act of patriotic heroism.

(Signed) J. CLOYD BYARS.  
 (Signed) C. J. MCRAE.

## No Crown of Thorns.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—To William Jennings Bryan. You shall not press down your crown of selfishness on the Democratic party; you shall not crucify the voters to sell your copyrighted articles.

Riverton.

A DEMOCRAT.

for whom Mr. Flood was so largely responsible.

Doubtless many of your readers fail to see why Mr. Flood deserves any great credit for defending this State from a criticism which his action brought upon her. His defense would have been more to the point had he taken no part in naming Ryan as a delegate. There is truth in the homely adage, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Had Mr. Ryan never been a delegate there would have been no such suggestion as "Send Ryan home!" no need of criticism of our delegation, no Hal Flood defense.

J. MILLER LEAKE.

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the school, as a youth of very great promise.

## Funeral at Ashland.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]  
 Ashland, Va., July 1.—The remains of Thomas D. Perkins will reach Ashland tomorrow shortly after noon, and the funeral will be held at 3 o'clock in the afternoon from the residence of Mrs. James C. Hogarth, sister of Henry D. Perkins, father of the dead youth. The services will be conducted by Rev. J. I. Goodwyn.

## MAN INSTANTLY KILLED BY TRAIN

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]  
 Ashland, Va., July 1.—A horrible accident occurred at Breino Hunt, a town in the James River Valley near Revere, late Saturday night. John Tillman, a young man, born instantly killed and ground practically into atoms by passing freight train.

The accident is thought to have occurred about midnight. Saturday or some time early Sunday morning. The young man was last seen Saturday night and it is thought that he went up the tracks and there fell asleep. The first passing freight train cut off the top part of his head off, and Toms, which passed later, finished the gruesome work by cutting off his hands. His feet and other portions of his body, provided to help on during Sunday. No blame appears to be attached to any one for the death of the young man. His funeral took place to-day.

## NATIONAL STATE AND CITY BANK

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 3% ON SAVINGS 3%

## Efficient Attention

The service which this bank renders is comprehensive, meeting the needs of depositors. It is the constant watchfulness of our officers to see that every patron receives attention which is adequate and efficient that makes the National State and City Bank a most desirable institution through which to transact any financial affairs. Both small and large accounts are invited, either subject to check or at 3 per cent interest in our Savings Department.

## BRIGHT NORFOLK YOUTH DROWNED

Norfolk, Va., July 1.—Thomas Whitehead Perkins, aged sixteen years, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry D. Perkins, of 28 East Raleigh Avenue, and one of the brightest pupils of the Maury High School, was accidentally drowned in the river at the foot of Freemason Street shortly before noon to-day. Young Perkins had gone to the Norfolk Boat Club to take swimming lessons, and was about to come in from the water when he sank after the departure of the attendant, that he desired to take one more turn, and dove into the water. He came to the surface once, then went down not to come up again. A boy standing on the pier of the Norfolk Boat Club's boathouse, badly frightened when young Perkins failed to come to the surface, called for assistance from inside, but when he came was finally recovered it had been too long in the water to make resuscitation possible. The body was embalmed, and will be sent to Ashland for interment.

Young Perkins was an unusually bright boy, and had a promising future. He stood at the head in his studies as a pupil in the Maury High School, and this year took one of the oratorical medals. His father is the city editor of the Ledger-Dispatch.

Young Perkins was the winner of the first prize, a gold medal, at the recent commencement oratorical contest of his fraternity, the Alpha Alpha Phi, of Maury High School, and was regarded by Professor Bain, principal of

because of the presence of a delegate, showed more devotion to his native State, more care for her honor and reputation, and more consideration for the wishes of her people than to the trouble of Mr. Ryan as one of the Tenth (Mr. Flood's own) patriotic delegates. It seems to me that Mr. Flood's defense of Mr. Ryan's presence as a blot on the landscape of the Virginia delegation, is an apology much worse than his offense in having such a man sent to represent his district of our State.

"A reader," in Sunday's Times-Dispatch, is right. Such a betrayal of Virginia and Virginians should have been resented and if no Virginian was equal to the emergency we should commend and thank Mr. Bryan for the interest he took in the good name of his ancestral State.

Had a certain Mr. Flood, at Norfolk, shown more devotion to his native State, more care for her honor and reputation, and more consideration for the wishes of her people than to the trouble of Mr. Ryan as one of the Tenth (Mr. Flood's own) patriotic delegates. It seems to me that Mr. Flood's defense of Mr. Ryan's presence as a blot on the landscape of the Virginia delegation, is an apology much worse than his offense in having such a man sent to represent his district of our State.

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